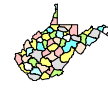




MINER DETAILS



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BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

From the Director's Office Employee of the Quarter

The winner of the 2002 first quarter (January, February and March) is Linda Miller. Linda has over 25 years with the agency and is a secretary at the Region 1 office in Fairmont. Linda began her employment July 1, 1976 with the agency. Her name will now automatically be nominated for consideration of the Agency Employee of the Year Award, which will be awarded March 2003.



Director Conaway awards Linda Miller the first Employee of the Quarter money award and certificate.

Each quarterly award winner receives a framed certificate and \$250.00. The yearly award winner receives \$350.00 and a framed certificate. Employee of the Year winners shall be eligible for the Bureau of Commerce Employee of the Year award worth \$1300.00. All monetary awards are subject to required tax withholdings.

All of our employees are encouraged to get involved in our program. Nomination forms will soon be available for download from our web page at www.state.wv.us/mhst, or from the Inspector-at-Large in your local regional office.

The OMHST representative serving as Chairperson is Deputy Director, C. A. Phillips; the recording secretary is Kathy Sloan; the committee members are Joe Atha, a two-year term; Terry

Farley, a two-year term; and Lonnie Gore, a one-year term. Mr. Gore will be replaced with the agency's employee of the year winner.

The committee looks at the following criteria when evaluating the nominations:

- Producing work-related service above and beyond the norm.
- Promoting harmony with co-workers.
- Promoting a positive image of the Bureau / Division / Section / Unit.
- Maintaining exemplary work standards.
- Presenting a helpful / cooperative attitude.
- Demonstrating exemplary use of time (includes work time and leave use).

The selection committee members are not eligible for nomination, nor can they submit nominations.

Nominations may be submitted by a co-worker, supervisor, or subordinate. Customers including employees from other state agencies and the general public may also submit nominations.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to congratulate Linda Miller, Secretary in the Region 1 office in Fairmont for being our first winner to represent OMHST as the Employee of the First Quarter 2002.

Did You Know?

How Light Produces Electricity

by Jim Berry

Electricity may be produced by using light as a source of energy converted to electricity. When light strikes certain materials, they may conduct electric charges easier, develop an electric charge, emit free electrons or convert light

to heat. The most useful of these effects is the development of an electric charge by a photocell when light strikes the photosensitive material in the cell.

Inside this Newsletter:

- From the Director's Office
- Did You Know?'
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Key Elements of Crib Building.

There are many things to consider when building a crib. Width to height ratio is important to the stability of the crib. As the mining height increases the base width of the crib should also be increased. Example, a common wooden crib block 6" X 6" X 30" should be stable to about 7' or 8' in height. In coal seams 9' to 10' thick, the width of the base should increase to at least 36" and would be more stable at 48". This also requires that the crib be properly constructed. The timber pieces must have flat parallel sides. If a timber has rotten spots, half-round or is badly damaged it should be discarded. One bad crib block weakens the entire crib. As weight comes to the crib the bad piece will crush, roll and try to kick out the crib. The first layer of blocks must be level and on solid footing. Where the crib blocks make contact above and below should be inline with one another. As the crib is erected the edge of cap wedges should be placed in each corner every 2 or 3 rows of timber. When near the roof the timber should be notched or half headers used to fill the top of the crib. Tighten wedges with an ax, a light hammer will not wedge the crib tight enough. Overhanging

the crib blocks makes the crib more stable and increases the load capacity by about 10%. One half the timber width is recommended for the overhang distance.



When the crib takes weight, this helps lock the crib blocks in place. When the timber ends are flush the crib is less effective as in these pictures



Agency Accomplishments Fairmont – Buckhannon Office Moves

By the end of May, the Fairmont and Buckhannon Offices will have merged. The combined offices are moving to a new location in south Fairmont. The new office is in the Marion Square shopping center and offers plenty of room and parking. The Buckhannon Office will move first, around the 15th of the month, with the Fairmont Office moving the next week.

New Regulation

The Board Of Coal Mine Health and Safety has issued a new regulation concerning the operation of track haulage locomotives. Copies of the new regulation have been mailed to all underground operations for comment. The effective date of the new regulation is August 15, 2002

Pre-Shift Examiners Competition

For the first time, a pre-shift examiners competition will be held during the 2002 State Mine Rescue Contest. Any certified person from any state may enter. Contestants will be judged on their ability to make a proper pre-shift examination in a timely manner, checking for ventilation, roof conditions and any other hazards to the on-coming crew. The “Fireboss” will examine part of the mine and then fill out his pre-shift

report, and will be graded on both parts.

Inter-Agency Training

In response to the increased number of fatal mining accidents in West Virginia during 2001, Governor Wise requested that all relevant state agencies make a joint effort to reverse this trend. The OMHST, enlisted the assistance of field inspection personnel from the Division of Environmental Protection. The two agencies have implemented a mutual assistance program. In April, joint training sessions were conducted at various locations for all OMHST and WVDEP inspection personnel.

For Your Information Something for Electricians

Check out this web address for online interactive learning for electrical students: www.thelearningpit.com The Learning Pit has tutorials and quizzes covering everything from basic DC theory to the most advanced programmable logic controllers (PLC's). You can study basic, intermediate, and advanced electrical code, learn to read electrical prints, and even call up a state-of-the-art PLC training simulator. This site is a great help for those wanting to learn electricity from the bottom up, with no limits in technology support for electricians, teachers and electrical professionals. Articles are regularly presented from prestigious colleges and universities such as Berkeley and Honolulu Community College. In addition to software simulators and interactive learning tutorials, this site has links to the latest software, hardware and tools for educators.

Timely Web Sites

Gardening for Beginners

www.thegardenhelper.com

This site will help you develop your green thumb. There are easy-to-follow steps on building a simple garden, as well as a guide to plant species and their needs.

The Garden Wizard

www.burpee.com/gardenwizard

Let the Garden Wizard help you

find out what grows where. There are pictures of each plant and tips to achieve optimal growth.

Lawn Care

www.yardcare.com

This site covers virtually every aspect of yard care. There are detailed descriptions of grass types, as well as growing and climate conditions.

More Money

Governor Wise's proposed \$804 across-the-board pay raise passed the legislature and becomes effective July 1. Also the 20-year cap has been removed on the \$50 per year incremental pay.

Up Close and Personal

Kevin Betler, inspector in the Buckhannon Region has left our agency due to medical retirement. We surely will miss him. Our best wishes go with you Kevin and family.

Gerald Ellison was hired April 16th as a surface mine inspector in the Oak Hill office. Welcome aboard Gerald.

Allison Shumate, the daughter of Art Shumate is graduating from So. Charleston High School with honors. Allison has maintained a 3.8 GPA and has been awarded both the Governor's Promise Scholarship & the Achievement Scholarship Award. She will be attending WVU. Congratulations Allison, keep up the good work!

Memorial Day

Enjoy the Holiday!

WV Office of MHS&T

Governor Bob Wise

Doug Conaway, Director

Contact Person: *Dave Kessler*

Visit the agency's website at:

www.state.wv.us/mhst

